

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application .

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An article-positioning machine of the type comprising the means to collect the articles in a plurality of individual housings moving in a closed circuit ~~and, means arranged~~ in at least one drop zone ~~to allow the orientated articles to each drop in an orientated fashion~~ inside a corresponding alignment conduit moved together with each housing and exit means to extract the ~~orientated and aligned~~ articles which are orientated and aligned from said alignment conduits onto an exit conveyor belt, each alignment conduit comprising an upper portion for ~~article collection~~ collecting the articles from the corresponding housing, at least one ~~moving~~ movable intermediate portion defining at least one conduit for receiving the articles from said upper portion, and a lower portion comprising at least two compartments for receiving the articles from said intermediate portion, comprising at least two compartments wherein said upper and lower portions are moved together along said closed circuit while said intermediate portions are movable with respect to the upper and lower portions, existing in a stationary support plane being provided interposed between the intermediate portion and lower portions, ~~incorporating and~~ drive means being provided to selectively move said intermediate portion in order to ~~face~~ put said conduit of the intermediate portion in alignment with the upper portion ~~and so as to receive an article from the same, and/or face and then put the conduit of the intermediate portion in alignment~~ with one or ~~the other of~~ said at least two compartments of the lower portion to transfer said article to the same via at least one interruption existing in said support plane.

2. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said selective movement of ~~drive means are arranged to selectively move~~ the intermediate portion is in a direction transverset ~~transversal~~ to the drop direction of the articles along the alignment conduit.

3. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 2, wherein said selective movement of ~~drive means are arranged to selectively move~~ the intermediate portion is a return with a to and fro movement with stops at the ends of travel and without intermediate stops, each stop determining at least one of the ~~cited facing~~ said alignments of ~~cited the~~ at

least one conduit of the intermediate portion with the upper portion and/or with one or the other of said at least two compartments of the lower portion.

4. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 3, wherein said intermediate portion comprises two adjacent conduits, said lower portion comprises three adjacent compartments and the support plane comprises at least two interruptions.

5. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 2, wherein said ~~selective movement of drive means are arranged to selectively move~~ the intermediate portion is ~~a return with a to and fro~~ movement with stops at the ends of travel and at least one intermediate stop, each stop determining at least one of the ~~cited facing~~ said alignments of at least one conduit of the intermediate portion with the upper portion and/or with one of said three compartments of the lower portion.

6. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 5, wherein said intermediate portion comprises three adjacent conduits and said lower portion comprises four or five adjacent compartments and the support plane comprises at least two interruptions.

7. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said intermediate portion defines a single conduit and ~~articulates-is articulated~~ with the lower end of the upper portion, with said ~~selective movement of drive means being arranged to selectively move~~ the intermediate portion with a pendular motion with stops at, at least the ends of travel, each stop determining at least one of the ~~cited facing~~ said alignments of the conduit of the intermediate portion with one of the compartments of the lower portion while constantly maintaining the ~~cited facing~~ alignment with the upper portion.

8. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

9. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 2, wherein said drive means comprises at least one ~~fluidodynamic~~ fluid dynamic cylinder associated with each intermediate portion and independently controlled by control means.

10. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 5, wherein said drive means comprises at least one set of two ~~fluid-dynamic~~fluid dynamic cylinders associated with each intermediate portion and independently controlled by control means.

11. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 9, wherein said drive means ~~also further~~ comprises a mechanical movement transmission for each intermediate portion.

12. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 2, wherein said drive means comprises at least one electric motor associated with each intermediate portion and independently controlled by control means.

13. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 2, wherein said drive means comprises at least one electric motor and a mechanical movement transmission associated with each intermediate portion with said electric motor being independently controlled by control means.

14. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 2, wherein said drive means comprises at least one stationary cam profile fixed to a machine bed and at least one cam follower associated with each intermediate portion.

15. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said housings are adapted to collect the articles in a horizontal and pre-orientated position.

16. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said housings and their corresponding upper access portions comprise respective lateral ~~moving~~movable parts ~~coupled-linked~~ together and ~~susceptible-to~~capable of being changed in position to adapt the housings and upper portions to articles of different sizes.

17. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 16, wherein said housings and/or their corresponding upper portions ~~also further~~ comprise respective interior ~~moving-movable~~ parts ~~susceptible-to~~capable of being changed in position to adapt the housings and upper portions to articles of different sizes.

18. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said lower portions comprise at least one lateral ~~moving-movable~~ part associated with each compartment,

with said lateral ~~moving-movable~~ part ~~susceptible-to~~capable of being changed in position to adapt the lower portions to articles of different sizes.

19. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 18, wherein said lower portions ~~also-further~~ comprise at least one interior ~~moving-movable~~ part associated with each compartment, with said lateral ~~moving~~interior movable parts ~~susceptible-to~~capable of being changed in position to adapt the lower portions to articles of different sizes.

20. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said upper portions and/or intermediate portions and/or lower portions form respective ~~moving-movable~~ assemblies ~~susceptible-to~~capable of being changed in position to adapt the upper and/or intermediate and/or lower portions to articles of different sizes.

21. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 2, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

22. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 3, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

23. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 4, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

24. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 5, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

25. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 6, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

26. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 7, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

27. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 10, wherein said drive means also further comprises a mechanical movement transmission for each intermediate portion.

28. (Previously Presented) A machine in accordance with claim 5, wherein said drive means comprises at least one electric motor associated with each intermediate portion and independently controlled by control means.

29. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 5, wherein said drive means comprises at least one electric motor and a mechanical movement transmission associated with each intermediate portion with said electric motor being independently controlled by control means.